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PRESS RELEASE –
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Press Release

**FEDERAL CONSPIRACY CHARGES BROUGHT
AGAINST ALLEGED HEROIN TRAFFICKERS**

**TWELVE ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT
IN WILMINGTON AND PHILADELPHIA**

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly, DEA Special Agent-in-Charge James Kasson and Wilmington Police Department Chief Michael Szczerba announced today the arrest of twelve defendants. Four were charged yesterday with drug offenses in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Wilmington, Delaware. Eight were charged this morning in a criminal complaint issued against them by U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary Pat Thyng in Wilmington, Delaware. The federal charges are the result of an ongoing multi-jurisdictional investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) offices in Wilmington and Philadelphia, and the Wilmington Police Department (WPD).

Anthony Copeland, a/k/a “Repo” or “Reep”, 27, Kevin White, a/k/a “Naf”, “Nafi”, or “Meatball”, 27, Alberto Olmo-Estrada, 28, and Charneise French, 24, were arrested based on the indictment returned against them for the conspiracy to distribute more than one kilogram of heroin. Olmo-Estrada was arrested last night off of Interstate-95 on the 202 southbound ramp in

Wilmington, Delaware. Inside the van he was driving, officers located heroin with an approximate net weight of 75 grams, prepacked for sale throughout Wilmington.

Jesus Sarraga Solona, 24, Deocelnec Dalmasi, 27, Cesar Rodriguez, 29, Gregorio Hernandez-Rondon, 31, Jesus Tirado-Rosario, 30, Fe Del Carmen Holguen, 35, Maria Lopez, 21, and Angel Colon, 21, were arrested last night in Philadelphia and will face drug conspiracy charges in the criminal complaint¹ against them issued this morning.

U.S. Attorney Connolly stated that “our office will continue to focus federal resources in conjunction with local law enforcement resources to address the problem of the heroin trade in the City of Wilmington. The indictment returned yesterday against four defendants and this morning’s criminal complaint issued against eight more defendants participating in the conspiracy shows our office’s commitment to pursue the heroin suppliers, including those individuals bringing heroin into Wilmington from other states.” U.S. Attorney Connolly praised the enormous commitment of resources by Wilmington-based DEA agents, who received crucial assistance from DEA agents and state/federal DEA task force officers in Philadelphia during the investigation. In addition, U.S. Attorney Connolly singled-out for special praise the Wilmington Police Department’s Vice Unit for having focused investigative resources on the Riverside heroin trade and for having committed enormous officer time and man-power to assist the DEA in this investigation. “The unqualified support that the DEA received from the Wilmington Police Department was essential to the success of this investigation,” Connolly stated. Connolly added that in the year ahead, he hoped to see more such successful cooperation among city, state and federal agencies in addressing the heroin trade in Wilmington and the tri-state region.

¹ A criminal complaint is only an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

James M. Kasson, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Philadelphia Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration stated, “DEA is committed to working with state and local law enforcement agencies to dismantle violent drug organizations such as these that plague our communities. These arrests are significant and will have a positive impact for the citizens that live in the Wilmington community.”

Commenting on the arrests last night, Wilmington Police Chief Michael Szczerba said, “This is not only a major strike against a supply of heroin coming into our city, but also an important step forward in curtailing the violence that goes hand-in-hand with illegal drug trafficking.”

The indictment² alleges that on or about September 21, 2004, up to and including December 16, 2004, Anthony Copeland, a/k/a “Repo” or “Reep”, and Kevin White, a/k/a “Naf”, “Nafi”, or “Meatball”, engaged in the distribution of more than one kilogram of heroin throughout Wilmington, Delaware, by selling heroin to their customers in Wilmington, many of whom were themselves drug dealers in Wilmington or the greater Wilmington area. Charneise French participated in this enterprise by managing a residence in the Riverside section of the City of Wilmington at 2706 Bowers Street, from where some sales to Copeland and White’s customers were made. Heriberto Lozada and Alberto Olmo-Estrada supplied pre-packaged heroin to Copeland and White from 1331 Howell Street in Philadelphia and/or from Buildings F and G at 8221-8223 Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia and then returned with the proceeds to 9352 Neil Road, Apartment A, in Philadelphia and/or 1331 Howell Street and/or other places as yet unknown to the Grand Jury. Lozada and Olmo-Estrada repeatedly met Copeland and White

² An indictment is only an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

at a location in Wilmington, Delaware, near Interstate-95, where they repeatedly made deliveries of heroin to Copeland and White over the course of their conspiracy, that included a delivery on December 10, 2004, of over 100 net grams of heroin, or over 5,000 retail size bags of heroin, which were brand-labeled "Death Row".

The criminal complaint charges the other eight defendants with participating in the conspiracy in drug houses in Philadelphia where the heroin is packaged and branded for sale.

All of the defendants are charged in either the Indictment or the criminal complaint with having knowingly conspired to distribute to Wilmington mixtures and substances containing more than one kilogram of heroin.

Each defendant faces a maximum term of life imprisonment on the conspiracy charge and a maximum fine of \$4,000,000.

Copeland, White, Olmo-Estrada and French had an initial appearance this morning in United States District Court in Wilmington, Delaware. Other alleged conspirators who were arrested in Philadelphia are expected to face an initial appearance today on the charges against them. The Government will seek the detention of all of the defendants pending trial. The investigation remains ongoing.

Defendant Anthony Copeland, Kevin White and Charneise French reside in Wilmington, Delaware. All of the other defendants are known or believed to reside in Philadelphia.

For more information, contact Kimberlynn Reeves, Public Information Officer, at 302-573-6277, ext. 146.

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